UN BULLETIN

Special Edition

United Nations Information Centre, Accra, October 1995

UN BULLETIN

INTRODUCTION

50 years have passed since the United Nations was founded. With its founding a new framework for international relations was created. The membership of the Organisation has grown from 51 at its inception to 185 today.

It would be hard to identify a single domain where the United Nations is not involved. Hundreds of millions of people all over the world own their freedom, their health, their homes, their jobs and their lives to some extent to the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

The sphere of the United Nations' involvement has spanned from decolonisation and conflict resolution to global humanitarian activities and international economic cooperation.

In recent years, the world media has focused its attention on the UN peace-keeping activities. But the United Nations is not just about peace-keeping and peace-making.

The United Nations and its specialised agencies have remarkable achievements in the areas of development, health, agriculture, human rights, environmental protection, education, advancement of women, civil aviation, postal services and telecommunications, intellectual property, international law and its codification, law of the sea and world trade.

Information included in this edition presents just a brief outline of the activities of the United Nations system in selected areas.

COVER PHOTO

Pictures depecting some areas of United Nations activities

BACK PAGE COVER PHOTO

The Secretariat building of the United Nations Headquarters lit in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary in New York.

CONTENTS

UN AT 50:.. Recognising its Achievements. Page ... 3

Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the Finances of the UN Page ..... 4 - 5

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Page ....6 -7

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Page .... 8 - 9

United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) Page .....10 - 11

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Page ...12 - 13

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Page 14

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Page ....15 - 17

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Page ..... 18 - 19

World Food Programme (WFP) Page ...20 21

World Health Organisation (WHO) Page .... 22 - 23

Living High and Free Page 24

1995 UN Day Message Page ... 25

Commemorative Meeting of General Assembly Page ... 26

President of the Fiftieth General Assembly Page 26

Blue Book Series Page 27

UN BULLETIN

UN Bulletin is published quarterly by the United Nations Information Centre in collaboration with UN Agencies in Ghana.
Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations. Material from this Publication may be freely reproduced with due acknowledgement to UNIC-Accra.
Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to UN Bulletin, P. O. Box 2339, Accra, Ghana.
Tel: 666851-4 Ext. 149 or 665511. Fax: 665578
Contact: Abraham K. Nunoo

UNITED NATIONS AT 50: RECOGNISING ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

THE UNITED NATIONS was established in the aftermath of a devastating war to help stabilize international relations and give peace a more secure foundation.

Amid the threat of nuclear war and seemingly endless regional conflicts, peace-keeping has long been the most visible UN activity and the most compelling story for the world's media. But less noticed has been a vast array of work undertaken or led by the United Nations and its family of organizations that touches every aspect of the lives of people around the world. Child survival and development. Environmental protection. Human rights. Health and medical research. Alleviation of poverty and economic development. Agricultural development and fisheries. Education. Family Planning. Emergency and disaster relief. Air and sea travel. Peaceful uses of atomic energy. Labour and workers' rights. The list goes on. Here are just a few examples:

* Leading a global effort to bring safe drinking water to 1.3 billion people, mostly in rural areas, during the last decade.
* Eradicating smallpox worldwide in 1980; wiping out polio form the Western Hemisphere in 1991.
* Helping to end apartheid and establish a majority government in South Africa by imposing a range of political, social and economic sanctions.
* Promoting human rights by fashioning comprehensive agreements on political, civil, enconomic, social and cultural rights since the Universal Declaration of Human Righs was adopted in 1948.
* Leading global efforts to protect the environment, including the adoption of Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, a blueprint to promote sustainable development.
* Making sea and air travel safer by setting standards for maritime and air traffic.
* Immunizing 80 percent of the world's children — up from 5 percent in 1974 — against polio, tetanus, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria and tuberculosis through a campaign for universal immunizaton.
* Mounting a global campaign for children's welfare by adopting the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. The Convention has been almost universally ratified.
* Sending UN peace-keeping forces and observer missions to restore peace and foster negotiations. More than 35 such contingents have been deployed since 1945.
* Negotiating peaceful settlements to regional conflicts since 1945 - including an end to the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in El Salvador.
* Promoting the democratic process by providing electoral advice and assistance to more than 45 countries, including Cambodia, Namibia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Mozambique, Nicaragua and South Africa.
* Negotiating more than 300 international treaties — from human rights conventions to agreements on the uses of outer space and seabeds.

Free and fair elections in Namibia

* Clearing land mines that kill and maim tens of thousands of civilians each year in the former battlefields of Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique and Rwanda.
* Promoting development — The UN system has devoted more attention and resources to the promotion of development of human skills and potentials than any other external assistance effort. The system's annual disbursements, including loans and grants, amount to more than $10 billion. The UN Development Programme (UNDP), in close cooperation with over 170 Member States and other UN agencies, designs and implements projects for agriculture, industry, education, and the environment.
* Handing down judicial settlements of major international disputes — By giving judgements and advisory opinions, the International Court of Justice has helped settle international disputes involving territorial issues, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, diplomatic relations, hostage-taking, the right of asylum, rights of passage and economic rights.
* Ending apartheid in South Africa - By imposing measures ranging from an arms embargo to a convention against segregated sporting events, the United Nations was a major factor in bringing about the downfall of the apartheid system, which the General Assembly called "a crime against humanity." Elections were held in April 1994 in which all South Africans were allowed to participate on an equal basis, followed by the establishment of a majority government.
* Focusing on African development - For the United Nations, Africa continues to be the highest priority. In 1986, the United Nations convened a special session to drum up international support for African economic recovery and development. The United Nations also has instituted a system-wide task force to ensure that commitments made by the international community are honoured and challenges met. The Africa Project Development Facility has helped entrepreneurs in 25 countries to find financing for new enterprises. The Facility has completed 130 projects which represent investments of $233 million and the creation of 13,000 new jobs.
* Promoting women's rights - A long term objective of the United Nations has been to improve the lives of women and to empower women to have greater control over their lives. Several conferences during the UN-sponsored International Women's Decade set an agenda for the advancements of women and women's rights for the rest of the century. The Fourth World Conference on Women took place in Beijing, China. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) have supported programmes and projects to improve the quality of life for women in over 100 countries.
* Eradicating smallpox - A 13-year effort by the World Health Organization resulted in the complete

Contd on Page 4

Best copy available

SECRETARY GENERAL, BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI ON THE FINANCES OF THE UN

At a time when national budgets are shrinking and citizens worldwide are tightening their belts, the United Nations must become leaner, more focused and more efficient.

UNITED NATIONS AT 50

Contd. from Page 3

eradication of smallpox from the planet in 1980. The eradication has saved an estimated $1 billion a year in vaccination and monitoring, almost three times the cost of eliminating the scourge itself. WHO also helped wipe out polio from the Western hemisphere, with global eradication expected by the year 2000.

* Providing humanitarian aid to victims of conflict - More than 30 million refugees fleeing war, famine or persecution have received aid from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees since 1951 in a continuing effort coordinated by the United Nations that often involves other agencies. There are more than 19 million refugees, mostly women and children, who are receiving food, shelter, medical aid, education and repatriation assistance.

* Promoting investment in developing countries - The United Nations, through the efforts of the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), has served as a "match-maker" for North-South, South-South and East-West investment, promoting entrepreneurship and self-reliance, industrial cooperation and technology transfer and cost-effective, ecological-sensitive industry.

* Reducing fertility rates - The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), through its family planning programmes, has enabled people to make informed choices, and consequently given families, and especially women, greater control over their lives. As a result, women in developing countries are having fewer children - from six births per woman in the 1960s to 3.5 today.

* Fighting drug abuse - The UN International Drugs Control Programme (UNDCP) has worked to reduce demand for illicit drugs, suppress drug trafficking, and has helped farmers to reduce their economic reliance on growing narcotic crops by shifting farm production toward other dependable sources of income.

* Promoting economic reform - Together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations has helped many countries improve their economic management, offered training for government finance officials, and provided financial assistance to countries experiencing temporary balance of payment difficulties.

* Promoting worker rights - The International Labour Organization (ILO) has worked to guarantee freedom of the right to association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, promote employment and equal remuneration and has sought to eliminate discrimination and child labour. And by setting safety standards, ILO has helped reduce the toll of work-related accidents.

* Introducing improved agricultural techniques and reducing costs - With assistance from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) that has resulted in improved crop yields, Asian rice farmers have saved $12 million on pesticides and governments over $150 million a year in pesticide subsidies.

* Promoting the free flow of information - to allow all people to obtain information that is free of censorship and culturally unbiased, UNESCO has provided aid to develop and strengthen communication systems, established news agencies and supported an independent press.

NOBEL PRIZES

* *The United Nations has received the Nobel Peace Prize five times - the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in' 1954 and 1981, the United Nations Children's Fund in 1965, the International Labour Organisation in 1969 and the UN Peace-keeping Forces in 1988. The Nobel Peace Prize has also been awarded to individuals for their UN- related activities - Cordell Hull in 1945, Lord John Boyd Orr in 1949, Ralph Bunche in 1950, Lester Pearson in 1957, Dag Hammarskjod in 1961 and Sean MacBride in 1974.*

As the world come to terms with the changes brought about by the end of the Cold War, the United Nations must also adapt itself to a new rule and to new needs.

The problems that confront the United Nations are also a challenge for the member states that make up the United Nations and the peoples of the world whom the Organization serves.

In these changed circumstances, there is a pressing need for governments and public opinion to decide what they want the United Nations to be, what they want it to do and what they are willing to contribute to make it work.

In an article recently published, Sen Nancy Landon Kassebaumn and Rep Lee Hamilton opened a public dialogue that is of great importance to the United Nations and to its mission ("Fix the UN" opened June 25).

The lessons of Somalia and Bosnia require a harder look at managing some of the tasks now being assigned to peacekeepers.

In a recent report to the Security Council on the UN Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I emphasised that a peacekeeping force was not a combat force.

I counseled against the temptation to mix elements of peacekeeping with those of peace-enforcement.

I suggested that if member states desired peace-enforcement, then a multinational force outside the United Nations was the best way to manage such an operation.

Nonetheless, the fact is that most UN peacekeeping operations have been successful. All have been cost-effective in the sense of having prevented most costly wars.

Some observers are now questioning the usefulness and cost of the recent continuoum of UN global conferences. The facts rebut these concerns.

The Kassebaum-Hamilton article, for example, alleged that "the recent social summit in

Contd. on Page 5

SECRETARY GENERAL, ON FINANCES

Contd from Page 4

Copenhangen may have cost $60 million.

In fact, the total assessed cost to member states for the Copenhagen conference was just $2.4 million. Indeed, member states formally commended the Secretariat for its cost effective management of the process.

Through these global conferences — which are linked — attention is focused on current issues of great importance.

In Vienna in 1993, the world focused attention on human rights — mobilizing support and consolidating such important principles as the universal applicability of basic human rights standards.

This year the world will meet to consider global concerns affecting women. In the future, perhaps a global conference might focus on challenges for democratization.

To better pursue the major tasks of peacekeeping, human rights, humanitarian assistance and development, a single, more focused and more integrated organization is needed.

When I took office as Secretary General, I sharply cut the number of offices and departments. I made a commitment to bring more women into positions of high responsibility.

I took steps to reduce overlap and duplication. Now, in the key areas of staffing, cost-cutting, financial controls and the curtailment of abuses, significant progress is being made.

Today, the Organization is heading in a new direction. But there remains much to do.

UN Secretary General, Dr. Boutros Boutros - Ghali

First, to cut the UN bureaucracy, I have proposed a further net reduction of 135 secretariat, eliminating 201 existing ones.

In order to strengthen key fields of growing responsibility, 66 posts are to be created to increase the organisation's effectiveness in areas such as drug control, crime prevention, human rights, peacekeeping.

Second, already the regular budget has been cut nearly to a no-growth basis. Efficiency gains will bring more than $35 million in savings to the regualr budget during the 1996-1997 biennium.

Third added emphasis will be given to oversight and inspection. The internal audits will be greatly expanded.

Regulations to protect "whistleblowers" have been put in place and people are taking advantage of them.

The newly created Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) will carry out increased inspections, with full independence and without interference.

Fourth, decisive action is being taken to deal effectively with abuses. Internal justice procedures are being strengthened and streamlined.

Where there is financial wrongdoing, special emphasis is now being placed on the recovery of funds from those responsible.

And it is my intention that in cases of financial wrong-doing within the organization, criminal referral should now be the rule, not the exception.

Fifth, urgent attention is needed to improve the Organisation's dangerous financial position. The United Nation is bankrupt. Cash resources do not meet either current needs or current obligations.

As of the end of May 1995, member states owed $2,754 billion in assesments not paid. The United States — the largest debtor — owed the Organisation $1.179 billion.

The Organisation's excessive dependence on the assessments from a single member state is unhealthy.

Its deteriorating finances reflect the low priority given to the United Nations among the political and budgetary priorities of many member states.

A more even distribution of assessments among countries with the capacity to pay would be in the best interest of the Organization and the international community as a whole. It should be undertaken without delay.

Sixth, new emphasis will be placed on improving the Organization's operations in the economic and social sectors.

Development efforts must find a new level of coherence and be given a new direction. For the United Nations, we must identify and focus on, what the United Nations can do best.

The United Nations is the only machinery we have for collective cooperation among all nations.

It is the only global tool for promoting peace and security, furthering development, protecting human rights and strengthening international law.

These goals are worth pursuing. Let us work together to make sure that the United Nations is up to the job.

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE

During the first session of the General Assembly in 1946, the Assembly agreed with a recommendation by the Preparatory Commission on the United Nations and established the Department of Public Information (DPI) with guidelines for its activities taking cognizance of the fact that the "The United Nations cannot achieve the purposes for which it has been created unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and objectives". By one of its guidelines, DPI was asked to establish "branch offices ..... in order to ensure that people in all parts of the world, receive as full information as possible about the United Nations".

These branch offices are called United Nations Information Centres UNICs) or United Nations Information Services (UNISs). They are the voice of the United Nations in the field and are the principal local source of public information about the United Nations system. UNIC is an active link between the United Nations and local media, educational institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It provides up-to-date public information materials on the aims and objectives of the United Nations in the political, economic, social and humanitarian fields.

Mr. Samir Sanbar, Under Secretary-General, Department of Public Information

The Accra Centre is among a network of field offices which links the DPI Headquarters in New York to some 70 cities in UN member countries and translates when funds are available into local languages basic United Nations publications, prepares a newsletter for the United Nations system and prepares press releases which provide useful information to the local media, embassies, NGOs and governmental institutions.

When it was transferred to Accra in March 1958 from Monrovia, Liberia, the Centre used to cover all countries in the West Africa sub-region. Presently, it serves only Ghana and Sierra Leone.

The Centre has developed good working relations with government Ministries, Departments, Boards and officials. It promptly responds to their various needs for information on the United Nations.

UNIC assists print and electronic media in providing news about the United Nations. Regularly, the Centre provides the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation with UN radio programmes - UN Africa, Perspective, Women issues, etc and TV section with various films on UN activities all over the world be it peace-keeping, humanitarian assistance, health, child care, refugees, human settlement, women issues, population, or democratization. The Centre also arranges news conferences, panel discussions or symposia on UN issues.

The Centre responds to requests from NGOs and educational institutions for speakers and lecturers on the work of the United Na-

Cont. on page 7

tions. It also organises activities in collaboration with NGOs and other relevant bodies to mark UN observances like UN Day, World Press Freedom Day, International Women's Day, etc.

During international conferences organised by the United Nations like the World Conference on Human Rights, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), World Summit on Social Development (WSSD), Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), etc., the Centre makes available to Ministries, Parliament, organizations, educational institutions, media, NGOs and other relevant agencies and the public all the necessary information about such conferences in the form of posters, backgrounders, summaries, charts, flyers, pamphlets, booklets, etc.

The Centre promotes teaching about the United Nations through direct contact with teachers and students through lecture tours by the staff of the Centre to schools. Films on the United Nations are screened on such tours.

Mr. Vladimir Polyakov, UNIC Director

REFERENCE LIBRARY

United Nations official records and other public information materials including posters, reports and audio-visual materials are stocked in the library. The Centre's library is open to researchers and the public. The collection includes official records of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and records of the International Court of Justice. Complete collection of United Nations Treaty Series is also available. There are United Nations film and video collection which are used by the local broadcasting television station and loaned to Non Governmental Organisations and educational institutions.

Other Functions of the Centre include:

* Promoting as a focal point for public information the presence of the UN system in Ghana and projecting a unified approach and image;
* Working with organizations and local groups and seeking financial and other assistance to further understanding about the United Nations;
* Answering public inquiries;
* Monitoring the public perception of the United Nations in the country as expressed by policy makers, Parliamentarians, the academic community, the media, NGOs, etc.

Officials of UNIC and George Padmore Library admiring a Photo and Poster exhibition mounted by UNIC at the Padmore Library.

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
FAO Building - Junction off Liberia and Gamel Abdel Nasser Roads
P. O. Box 2339
Accra
Tel: 666851-4; 665511
Fax: (233-21) 665578

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's largest source of grants for development cooperation. It was created in 1965 through a merger of two predecessor programmes for United Nations Technical Cooperation which had been created in 1949 (the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance) and 1959 (the Special Fund). Funds come from the voluntary contributions of member states of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies, which provide approximately US$1 billion yearly to UNDP's central resources. A 36 - member Executive Board composed of both developed and developing countries approves major programmes and policy decisions.

An exclusive focus on aggregate economic growth in the 1960s shifted to increase emphasis on redistribution and basic needs in the 1970s, environmental concerns in the 1980s, and governance and the peace - development nexus in the 1990s. Accordingly, UNDP, a key player on the development scene, was directed by its governing body to promote "human development" in 1990, and after the Earth Summit in 1992, "sustainable development." Building on the two concepts, in 1993 UNDP came up with the integrated term **"sustainable human development" (SHD).**

The brief definition of SHD by UNDP Administrator, James Gustave Speth, is: "Sustainable human development is development that doesn't merely generate growth, but distributes its benefits equitably; it regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; it empowers people rather than marginalizing them; it enlarges their choices and opportunities and provides for peoples' participation in decisions affecting their lives. Sustainable human development is development that is pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women. It stresses growth but growth with employment, growth with environment, growth with empowerment, growth with equity." In June 1994, UNDP's Executive Board adopted SHD as the overarching concept and in 1995 it recognized "poverty elimination" as the overriding priority within the framework of SHD.

The concept is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and has been augmented by the declarations issued by governments at Rio de Janeiro and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. It is also responsive to the goals of the 1995 international conferences: the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (Attacking Poverty, Building Solidarity, Creating Jobs) and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (Equality, Development, Peace).

Mr. James Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator

UNDP has identified

Contd on Page 9

Contd from P 8

three main goals towards which to work to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable human development:

- to help the United Nations become a powerful and cohesive force for sustainable human development;
- to focus its own resources on a series of objectives central to sustainable human development: poverty elimination, environmental regeneration, job creation, and advancement of women;
- to strengthen international cooperation for sustainable human development and serve as a major substantive resource on how to acheive it.

Mr. Solomon S.O. Akpata, UN Resident Co-ordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana

"Dawadawa" processing in the Kantia community of the Upper East Region in connection with the income generating programme under the Africa 2000 Network of the UNDP.

UNDP TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN GHANA

UNDP's technical cooperation (TC) with the Government of Ghana (GOG) started in 1957 when the country gained its independence. Since then, in line with Ghana's developmental needs and priorities as set out by GOG, UNDP's TC programmes have been directed towards areas as health, education, science and technology, research and development, agriculture, trade and industry, public sector management, development planning, environmental management, and gender in development. The cumulative UNDP disbursement on projects relating to the areas mentioned is estimated to be around US $200 million.

UNDP's role however cannot be seen in terms of the magnitude of the resources it makes available but rather in terms of its catalytic role in the development process by drawing on the expertise available within the UN development system. Notable achievements resulting from GOG and UNDP collaboration include: support to the establishment of National Development Planning Commission, the Mineral Commission, National Energy Board and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation; strengthening the Ghana Statistical Service; establishment of monitoring and evaluation unit in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and development of the local consulting industry in Ghana. Significant among UNDP achievements, is also its timely support to the electoral process in 1992, whereby it provided direct support to strengthening national capabilities on the evolution of a new constitutional order by support to the Committee of Constitutional Experts, resulting in adoption of a new constitution for Ghana. Currently UNDP's TC with GOG is focussed on capacity development and poverty reduction mainly through the utilization of national expertise.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDP Building - Ring Road East, Accra.

Tel: 77890-6
Fax: (233-21) 773899

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was set up by the UN General Assembly. Since 1st January 1951, UNHCR has been responsible for protecting refugees and promoting lasting solutions to their problems.

Although the Organization was initially established as a temporary one - its life-span was originally to be three years - it soon became clear that refugees would require continued attention. The Assembly has consequently renewed UNHCR's mandate for successive five-year periods. The most recent extension prolongs UNHCR's existence from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1998.

- Mrs Sadako Ogata, HIgh Comm for Refugees

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is elected by the UN General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General. There have been eight High Commissioners since UNHCR was established in 1951. The current incumbent, Mrs. Sadako Ogata of Japan, took up office on 18th February, 1991. The High Commissioner acts under the authority of the General Assembly. She also reports to UNHCR's Executive Committee, a body composed at present of 46 governments which oversees UNHCR's budgets and advises on refugee protection.

MANDATE

UNHCR's founding statute makes it clear that the Organization's work is humanitarian and entirely non-political. It entrusts UNHCR with two main and closely-related functions - to protect refugees and to promote durable solutions to their problems.

According to its statute, UNHCR is competent to assist: Any person who, "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to return to it."

While this definition still forms the core of UNHCR's mandate, additional criteria have been introduced to accommodate the evolving nature of refugee flows in recent decades. In typical situations today, UNHCR provides protection and assistance to groups of refugees fleeing combinations of persecution, conflict and widespread violations of human rights. In recent years moreover, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General have increasingly called on UNHCR to protect or assist particular groups of internally displaced people who have not crossed an international border but are in refugee-like situation inside their countries of origin. Although not mentioned in its statute, UNHCR has also assumed the additional role of coordinating material assistance for refugees, returnees and, in specific instances displaced people.

As of January 1995, UNHCR employed 5,175 staff members to carry out its functions. Of these, 841 are stationed at its Geneva Headquarters and 4334 in some 177 field offices in 106 countries. The map of UNHCR's presence throughout the world changes rapidly as new refugee situations emerge or possibilities for solutions are consolidated.

Contd on p 11

Contd from p 19

FUNDING UNHCR'S PROGRAMMES

With the exception of a very limited subsidy from the regular budget - 3 percent - (which is used exclusively for administrative costs), UNHCR's assistance programmes are funded by voluntary contributions from governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals.

These so-called "voluntary funds" finance all UNHCR's assistance programmes worldwide. UNHCR's annual voluntary funds expenditure has risen rapidly over the past 25 years reaching $1.3 billion in 1995.

UNHCR'S PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN GHANA

Prior to 1976, UNDP had responsibility for refugee matters in Ghana. In 1976, however, a UNHCR Counselling Office was set up with UNDP assisting the Office to function by providing logistics support, Office premises and some rudimentary supervision. The Counselling office was opened specifically with a view to secure and deal with educational placement for Namibian and South African refugee students.

Following the arrival (as from 3rd September 1990) of Liberian refugees evacuated by ECOMOG forces due to the civil war in that country, a project of assistance to refugees residing at the Gomoa Buduburam Camp only was established for 6,748 refugees majority of them being children (3,031) and women (2,034).

As a result of this development, the status of the office was upgraded form a Counselling Office to an Office of the Charge de Mission with UNHCR Regional Office for West Africa (in Dakar) exercising direct supervisory responsibility over the Ghana Office. Again, owing to the influx of Togolese refugees into Ghana in early 1993 and the attendant expansion of UNHCR's activities in the country, the status of the office was upgraded again, this time to a full-fledged Branch Office with a corollary change in the designation of the head of office from

- Mr. Chrysantus Ache, UNHCR'S Rep.in Ghana

Charge de Mission to Representative.

The main activities undertaken by UNHCR in Ghana during the past years have been the protection and care/maintenance - ensuring that they were not refouled to a country where their lives could be endangered and providing for their supplementary and complementary food needs, transport and logistics, domestic items, health and sanitation, education, social and psychological needs, and legal protection. Emphasis is now being shifted from pure care and maintenance to the promotion of agricultural and income generating projects which will enable the refugees to become self-sufficient. From 1991 to date an amount of nine million US dollars ($9,000,000.00) has been spent on refugees in Ghana.

Togolese refugees engaged in dress-making

PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

For Liberian refugees, UNHCR will continue with the care and maintenance programme on limited scale. More emphasis will be placed on skills training, agriculture and income generating activities to make them economically self-sufficient to the extent possible.

However, should the current efforts at peace succeed then, they would be encouraged to voluntarily repatriate home. Repatriation would be promoted only if and when it is ascertained that it could be done in a situation where the dignity and safety of the refugees would be guaranteed.

Following the amnesty law promulgated by the Togolese authorities in December, 1994, it may be possible to encourage voluntary repatriation by the end of this year or early next year. This, however, is contingent upon the ongoing bilateral negotiations between UNHCR and the Togolese Government on one hand, and between UNHCR and the Ghanaian Government on the other, which hopefully, will culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the two governments.

Until this is done, limited assistance would continue to be provided while economic independence would be promoted through skills training and income generating activities.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) No. 25 Sir Arku Korsah Road, Roman Ridge/Airport Residential Area, Accra, Private Mail Bag, Kotoka International Airport Accra,
Tel: 777417, 772638
Fax: (233-21) 773158

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

At the end of World War II, there was widespread misery and deprivation throughout Europe. As usual, the worst victims of this situation were children and women.

Not being able to stand by and watch children, its richest resource destroyed by this situation, the United Nations General Assembly, unanimously established an international children fund to send crash relief programmes to children in these war ravished countries. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF was thus born on 11th December 1946.

By 1950, UNICEF had expanded beyond Europe, into Asia and Palestine. Millions of children were receiving daily supplementary meals, clothing supplied by UNICEF.

In this same year, a major decision was made to devote a greater share of the Fund's resources to programmes further afield. Africa, South of the Sahara began to receive UNICEF assistance in 1952.

During this period, a debate arose in the UN system on the relevance of UNICEF since the war had been over for more than five years. That the conditions that precipitated the creation of the Fund were no long in existence. The "organisation", they continued "had to be scrapped."

But there were others who said outside Europe and elsewhere in the world, there were children and women who permanently lived in conditions probably worse than those seen by Europe immediately after the war. To these people, UNICEF was as relevant as it was to those in Europe.

UNICEF Ex. Dir. Ms. Carol Bellamy

In October 1956, the General Assembly extended UNICEF's mandate indefinitely. The words "International" and "Emergency" were deleted from the official name, which then became United Nations Children's Fund. The acronym UNICEF was retained.

AIM

The aim of UNICEF is to support Governments in practical ways to improve the survival, protection and development of their children.

The Organisation is headed by an Executive Director and supported by an Executive Board, to which member states are invited to serve on a rotation basis. Ghana is currently serving on the Board.

Ms. Carol Bellamy; was nominated to office by the Secretary General of the UN in April 1995 following the resignation of Mr. James P. Grant in January.

LOCATION

The UNICEF Headquarters is located at the UN Plaza in New York city, USA. It has major offices in Geneva, Tokyo and Sydney as well as Offices in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and recently in Eastern Europe. There are more than 110 UNICEF offices worldwide.

UNICEF acquires its

Contd on Page 13

UNICEF - GHANA

Contd. from Page 7

funding through its share of the contributions from member states made to the UN and monies provided by governments directly to the Organisation. Perhaps the most important source of funding for UNICEF is through the sale of its Greeting Cards and year-round fund raising activities organised by UNICEF National Committees in the industrialized countries, as well as through donations from individuals.

Mr. Ken Williams UNICEF Representative in Ghana

UNICEF GHANA

Mr. Ken Williams has been the UNICEF Representative in Ghana since 1993.

UNICEF started operating in Ghana in 1982 as a country office. Before then, it existed as an area office administered from Nigeria between the years 1975 to 1977, and from 1978, as an area office reporting to the office in Cote d'Ivoire.

Every five years, the Government of Ghana and UNICEF draw up an agreement of cooperation based on the Government's analysis of the situation of women and children in Ghana. The aim is to assist Ghana in improving the survival,protection and development of children.

The 1991 - 1995 Programme of Cooperation ends on the 31st of December this year. However, it has been moulded to dovetail into the cycle starting in 1996 - 2000 which expands the Education Programme into a Human Resource Development Programme and introduces cooperation in three other areas: Food Security and Nutrition Policy; Rural and Urban Community Based Development; and Social Research.

UNICEF, through the Ghana Office provides technical, financial and material support to the Ghana Government's development initiatives through seven programmes with eighteen project areas.

Starting 1996, UNICEF will provide assistance to the value of US $15,000,000 for the next five years. In addition, UNICEF hopes to raise supplementary funds amounting to US $26,828,000 from other sources - International Aid Agencies, bilateral donors, and the private sector to complement the resources already committed for the same period. In total, this amount represent an increase of more than 100 percent over the US $20,6335,000 assistance provided in the 1991 - 1995 Programme of Cooperation.

Implementation

Principally, government designated Ministries, Corporations, and Departments are the major implementors in the UNICEF-Ghana Programme 2000. In areas where Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are identified and found to have comparative advantage, they will collaborate with the Government Institutions in the implementation of the programmes.

UNICEF - Ghana Programme 2000

PROGRAMME	PROJECTS
Health	Child Health Promotion, District Primary Health Care Development, Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health, Control of Micronutrient Deficiencies
Human Resource Development	Strengthening Policy Analysis and Planning, Child-School-Community Project, Credit with Education, Child Care and Early Childhood Development
Water and Sanitation	Capacity Building for achievement of Water Goals, Environmental Health for Rural and Peri-urban areas
Food Security and Nutrition Policy	Food Security and Nutrition
Community-Base d Development	Rural Community-Based Development, Urban Community-Based Development
Social Mobilisation	Advocacy and Programme Communication Institutional Capacity Building, HIV/AIDS Awareness
Social Research	Centre for Social Policy Studies

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Police Hospital Mortuary Road, Behind UNDP Building, P.O Box 5051, Accra
Tel: 777972,772524,773563,773584
Fax: (233-21) 773147

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

The United Nations Industrial Development Orgnaization (UNIDO) is the UN Agency specialized in the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in developing countries. UNIDO was established on 1st January 1967 by a UN General Assembly resolution, and became on 17th December 1985 the 16th specialized agency within the United Nations system.

The Constitution of UNIDO calls on the Organization to assist in the formulation of development, scientific and technological programmes and plans for industrialization in the public, cooperative and private sectors.

UNIDO services focus on five developmental objectives:

* Industrial and technological growth and competitiveness
* Human resource development
* Equitable development through industrialization
* Environmentally sustainable industrial development
* International cooperation in industrial investment and tech nology

Working at three levels - policy, institution and enterprise - UNIDO acts as a:

* Focal point for industrial technology
* Honest broker for industrial cooperation
* Centre of excellence on industrial developmental issues
* Global source of industrial information

The General Conference consisting of all 167 (member countries), the Industrial Devleopment Board (53 Member countries), and the Programme and Budget Committee (27 member countries) are the policy formulating organs of UNIDO.

THE SECRETARIAT-Comprises the Director-General, Mr. Mauricio de Maria y Campos, and eight divisions each headed by a Managing Director.

FUNDING-Sources include assessed contributions from Member States, UN system funds, government funds, development finance institutions and trust funds. UNIDO maintains its own system of voluntary contributions, the Industrial Development Fund (IDF).

Mr. Mauricio de Mariay Campis, Director-General, UNIDO

UNIDO IN GHANA

After ten years of absence, the UNIDO office in Ghana was re-established in August 1993. UNIDO had executed several projects in Ghana prior to the establishment of the Accra office and the arrival of the Country Director. Some have been completed, while others are still on-going. However, since 1993, quite a number of projects in various industrial sub-sectors have been initiated. They include:

* High Level Technical Assistance in the Reorganization of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
* Women Entrepreneurs for Industrial Growth" in Food Processing and Textiles and Related Products.
* Rehabilitation of the Textile and Garment Sector Programme.
* Design of an Integrated Development Programme for the Wood Products Manufacturing Industry System.
* Water Pollution Control and Bio-diversity Conservation in the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Eco-System.
* High Level Advisory Assistance for Selection of the Best Option for Utilization of the Subri Industrial Plantation.
* Investment Promotion Pro-

Contd on Page 25

UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The aim of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is to help developing countries balance their rates of population growth with their socio-economic development. Governments are assisted to formulate and implement population policies that are geared towards improving the quality of life of their people. UNFPA also seeks to promote a fuller understanding of the impact of population on development endevour.

UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme as its governing body. It began operations in 1969. Its mandate was laid down by The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1973. It is:

- Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA

* To build knowledge and capacity to respond to national, regional and global needs in population and family planning.

* To promote awareness of population problems in both developed and developing countries and possible strategies to deal with those problems

* To assist developing countries, at their request, in dealing with their population problems, in the forms and means best suited to the individual country's needs and

* To play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund.

UNFPA's mandate encompasses a broad range of population activities. Reproductive health as well as Family Planning, STDs including HIV/AIDS. Nearly half of UNFPA assistance is used for maternal and child health care and family planning programmes. Another 18 percent is used for population information, education and communication. Other activities supported are collection and analysis of population data, censuses, research on fertility, mortality and migration and their relationship with development. The Fund also supports special programmes concerning gender, youth, the aged, AIDS and the environment in the context of sustainable development.

UNFPA is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, not by the United Nations' regular budget. It is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance, directly managing

Contd on p16

Contd from Page 15

one-third of all population assistance to developing countries.

Most of UNFPA's support comes from Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, Italy and Australia. Altogether 158 developed and developing countries have contributed nearly US$2.5 billion in cumulative pledges.

Before UNFPA provides assistance to a country, it sets out to determine that country's needs. A team of experts in collaboration with national counterparts carries out a programme review and strategy development (PRSD) in the requesting country. Their report is distributed worldwide to all donor countries and agencies with interest in population issues.

The report provides information on the current population of the country; its population and development objectives, and the strategies that would best achieve those objectives; the contribution of existing programmes; and priorities for assistance. Support from UNFPA can be in the form of supplies and equipment, technical assistance or financial backing for relevant in-country activities. Assistance can range in magnitude from a small scale consultancy (of several thousand dollars) to several million dollars for support to reproductive health/Family Planning programmes.

UNFPA PROGRAMME IN GHANA

UNFPA's First Country Programme for Ghana covered the period 1985 - 1989 with a budget of $3.02 million to support (i) integration of family planning with the national maternal and child health activities; (ii) reviewing and improving the implementation of the 1969 National Population Policy: (iii) enhancing the implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated population information, education and communication (IEC) programme in the country; (iv) conducting and processing the 1984 national population census.

- Mr. Teferi Seyoum, UNFPA Country Director

The Second UNFPA Programme began in 1991 and will end in December 1995. The programme was approved with a total budget of $10 million from regular UNFPA resources with an additional of $1.3 million from bilateral resources. Under the programme, support has been provided for promotion of reproductive health including family planning and protection against STD and HIV/AIDS; revision of the 1969 Population Policy, establishment of a National Population Council; collection and analysis of demographic data; and for gender, population and development activities.

A Third Country Programme for the period 1999 - 2000 has been formulated and will be presented to the UNFPA Executive Board for approval in November 1995.

The main recommendations outlined in the document are in line with the provisions of the National Population Policy, the Action Plans, the guidelines contained in the Government's medium-term (1996-2000) visionary policy framework, the country strategy note (CSN) and the general recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994). In particular, the recommendations are guided by the goals and objectives of the revised national population policy are summarised below.

UNFPA's assistance under the Third Country Programme of Assistance will focus on three substantive areas. These are:

- Reproductive Health / Family Planning;
- Policies and development strategies including Gender; and
- Advocacy

Contdon Page 17

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF GHANA'S POPULATION POLICY

Ghana's new population policy details a set of 14 specific goals. The foundation of each of these goals is to ensure that the country achieves and maintains a level of population growth which is consistent with national development objectives. The impetus for the policy is to enhance the quality of life of the people of Ghana — men and women, children, adolescents, parents and the aged alike.

In pursuit of these goals, Ghana's population policy adopts a number of objectives:

- To ensure that population variables or issues are integrated into all aspects of the development planning and implementation process.
- To reduce the high level of fertility through the provision of affordable and high quality family planning services throughout the country.
- To develop special programmes which focus on and cater for the reproductive and sexual health needs of adolescents, including providing them with adequate education about their reproductive health.

Ghana's new population policy aims to help women become more active in all aspects of socio-economic development as well as provide them with appropriate health and family planning services.

- To reduce the high levels of morbidity and mortality, especially maternal and infant mortality, and ensure a better health care system for all.
- To ensure that particular attention is focused on the elimination or control of STDs and HIV/AIDS.
- To institute and support programmes which cater for the special needs of the aged in society.
- To enhance women's rights and status within the society and ensure their active participation in all aspects of development.
- To adopt measures to influence the volume and patterns of migration and to promote a more rational distribution of population and development between rural and urban areas and between different zones and regions of the country.
- To institute and support policies and programmes to protect and conserve the environment and the nation's natural resources while at the same time ensuring that these resources enhance the quality of life.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP Building - Ring Road East, P.O. Box 1423 Accra, Tel: 773890-6; 772829 Fax: (233-21) 773899

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded on the 16 October 1945 in Quebec, Canada, with the clear mandate to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity and to better the condition of rural populations.

Today FAO is the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations with 176 member nations. The Organization's 1994-1995 biennial budget is set at 673 million dollars. The programme of work and budget for 1996 - 97 is get at $650 million.

The Organization offers direct development assistance, collects, analyses and disseminates information, provides policy and planning advice to governments and acts as an international forum for debate on food and agriculture issues.

FAO is also active in land and water development, plant and animal production, forestry, fisheries, economic and social policy; investment, nutrition, food standards, commodities and trade. Further, it also plays an important role in dealing with food and agricultural emergencies such as drought, famine and insect plagues.

The Organization also has a specific priority by encouraging sustainable agriculture and rural development - a long term strategy for the conservation and management of rural resources through programmes that do not degrade the environment.

It should be recalled that the FAO Regional Office for Africa was first established in Ghana in 1959, with the aim to monitor and report on major developments and trends in food and agriculture in the Region.

- Advising the Director-General on formulation of FAO's regional policies and programmes, promoting technical cooperation between countries of the region including the use of regional institutes and exchanges of information.
- Participating in the preparation of regional and sub-regional programmes and projects and assisting regional groups of countries to identify their technical assistance needs.
- Organizing and conducting FAO Regional Conferences of African Ministers of Agriculture.
- Providing the secretariat for Regional Technical Bodies directly related to FAO mandates such as the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa, the Fishery Committee for the Eastern and Central Atlantic, Pesticide Management Network for West Africa, African Commission on Agricultural Statistics, the Committee for Soil Conservation and Land Evaluation, etc.

The FAO Representation in Ghana was created in 1978. For many years, the cooperation

Contd on P19

Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO

Mr. Bamidele F. Dada, Assistant Director - General and FAO Regional Rep. for Africa

FAO IN GHANA

Contd. from p18

between the Republic of Ghana and FAO has been strengthened in various developmental activities in consonance with priorities set up by the Government of Ghana - these priorities stand as follows:

- strengthening the public sector management;
- rural development and strengthening the consultancy capacity of Ghanaian institutions for training, research, agriculture and energy develop ment.

INSTITUTE

The first institution to be set up through this co-operation is the Forest Products Research Institute of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, in 1962.

The Organization further assisted in the establishment of a Forestry Inventory Unit to train not only staff in Ghana, but also of neighbouring countries in the field of strengthening public sector management.

Further, FAO is implementing planning of projects designed to upgrade the analytical and planning skill of sectoral economics. Other projects with the view to promote

- Mr. Jacques P. Eckebil FAO Rep in Ghana

rural development are also being implemented. These include the People's Participation Programme (PPP), Agro-Forestry Development and the Prevention of Post-Harvest Losses.

FAO is also currently implementing other field projects whose objectives are close to food production and environmental protection in order to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition. This programme includes one project under the FAO Regular Programme in the field of promoting Household Food Security and improving nutrition through Nutrition Education and Training, 13 under Extra-Budgetary Resources of which four were under UNDP Supported Projects and nine Trust Fund Projects. The total project budget amounts to US $11.438.759million.

Food and Agriculture Orgaisation (FAO),
FAO Building - Junction off Liberia and Gamel Abdel Nasser Roads,
P.O Box 1628, Accra
Tel: 666851-4
Fax: (233-21) 668427
Tlx: 239 FOODAGRI

Officials of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture and FAO on field inspection at a rice farm at Dawhenya

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The World Food Programme (WFP), is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. WFP was established in 1963 as a development programme to combat hunger and promote economic and social development among poor people in poor countries.

Consistent with its mandate, which also reflects the principle of universality, WFP continues to:

— use food aid to support economic and social development

— meets refugee and other emergency food needs, and the associated logistics support, and

— promotes world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and FAO. (Food security is defined as access of all people at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life.)

Over the past three decades of the Programme's existence, several features stand out:

— WFP has grown from an experimental idea shared by a small number of countries to one of the world's largest development and relief agencies.

— During the past thirty years, WFP has invested $13 billion of aid, involving 40 million tons of food. Since its inception, the Programme has assisted more than 1,600 development projects and has provided humanitarian aid through more than 1,200 emergency and protracted refugee and displaced persons operations feeding hundreds of millions of poor and food insecure people, in nearly every developing country.

— With its expanded dual role of providing development and relief assistance, WFP has become within the United Nations system, the largest source of grant assistance to developing countries, and the largest purchaser of food and services in developing countries and a major supporter of South — South trade.

— With staff deployed in more than 80 country offices, and serving more than 90 developing nations including Ghana, WFP has the largest global network in food aid.

All resources provided to WFP by donors are on a voluntary basis. These are either in the form of food and/or cash. The categories of these resources are:

— pledges for its regular services,

— pledges for protracted refugee and displaced persons operations,

— contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve, (IEFR) which is administered by WFP on behalf of the United Nations,

— contributions to the Immediate Response Account of the IEFR,

— contributions for non-

Mrs. Catherin Berthini Exec. Director, WFP

Contd on Page 21

World Food Programme

Contd from Page 20

Mr. R. C. Gupta, WFP Rep. in Ghana

food items,

— non - traditional funding facilities.

Since the Basic Agreement between WFP and the Government of Ghana was signed in 1967, WFP has provided over $180 million in development and emergency assistance. From the very first project in Ghana which involved the resettlement of families displaced by the formation of the Volta Lake behind the Akosombo Hydro Electric Dam, WFP assistance has since covered all the major sectors of the Ghanaian economy, viz, transport including railways and ports, forestry, exports, agriculture, health, and the education sectors.

Prior to 1984, WFP development projects covered the resettlement project referred to earlier; the building of health clinics; vulnerable group feeding programmes and assistance to the forestry sector. Between 1984 and 1988, two projects were financed by WFP. These were the Export Sector Rehabilitation Project with WFP food aid valued at $41.5million, which has been completed. The other is the Transport sector project intiated in 1985 and still active. In 1989, WFP introduced two other projects, both of which are now completed. One is the Assistance to Mitigate Structural Adjustment Effects in the Social Sector with WFP food aid valued at $13.8 million. The other is provision of food assistance to integrate redeployed public service workers in the agricultural sector valued at $1.8 million to WFP.

WFP currently has a portfolio of three development projects in the country. These are the Transport Sector Project the Forestry Project and the Supplementary Feeding and Health and Nutrition Education Project which started operations in April 1995. In addition, WFP provides food assistance to two emergency operations and one protracted refugee operation, viz, Assistance to Togolese refugees in Ghana and Assistance to the Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Ghana and Assistance to Liberian Refugees. To date, WFP has spent over US$ 12 million on these three humanitarian operations.

WFP development projects have since 1988 generated more than three billion cedis in counterpart funds for the government for use in financing development programmes in the country. At the same time, WFP has provided a source of ready market for local produce especially, cereals and vegetable oil. For example over the three-year period between 1993 and 1995, the Programme has me purchased a cumulative amount of about 16,000 metric tonnes of maize, 3,500 metric tonnes of cowpeas, and 1,300 mt of vegetable oil locally, providing a major ready market for local companies and transferring enormous resources in the process. In addition, about 5,000 metric tonnes of WFP rice was exchanged locally for maize.

For the future, the key elements of assistance include the targeting of food aid to food deficit regions, the targeting of food aid to the food insecure and impoverished, and strengthening community participation in food - for - work programmes.

World Food Programme (WFP)
UNDP Building - Ring Road East
P.O. Box 1423, Accra

Tel: 773890-6; 773540
Fax: (233-21) 773835

Children under the Supplementary Feeding Programme

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

The World Health Organization was established in April 1948 when on 7th April of that year the 26th of the 61 governments that had signed its constitution ratified the constitution to bring it into force. The constitution of the WHO declares the following principles to be basic to human happiness and world peace:

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition".

"The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and states".

"Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of disease, especially communicable diseases, is a common danger".

"Healthy development of the child is of basic importance; the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment is essential to such development".

"Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people".

"Governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures".

ADMINISTRATION

The WHO has its Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland where the executive head, the Director General, is located. There are six regional offices at Alexandria for Eastern Mediterranean Region; Copenhagen for Europe; Brazzaville for the African Region; Manila for the Western Pacific; New Delhi for South East Asia and Washington for the Americas. Each regional office is headed by a Regional Director while WHO Representatives in member countries ensure close contact between the national health administration and the Organization.

The constitution of the World Health Organization clearly sets out WHO's mission as the "Directing and coordinating agency for international health" and its objective; "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health".

Through technical cooperation the WHO assists member countries to plan, implement and evaluate their health programmes. The Organization acts as a global resource centre for health data.

In partnership with other sister UN Agencies, especially with UNICEF and with other collaborators and with member countries, the WHO has set itself the global goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. The strategy for achieving this is Primary Health Care.

STRUCTURE

The WHO consists of three organs: The World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat. The World Health Assembly, the governing body of the WHO meets in May each year to review the Organization's

Contd on Page 23

Dr. Ebrahim Malick Sambar, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

work and decide on future policy, programme and budget. It is responsible for appointing the Director General.

The Executive Board which consists of 32 persons representing an equal number of member countries acts as the executive organ of the World Health Assembly. It decides on future policy, prepares the agenda for each session of the Assembly and submits to it a general programme of work and budget covering a specific period and gives effect to the Assembly's decisions.

Ghana joined the WHO at independence in 1957. From a modest beginning, the WHO Office then made up of a WHO Programme Coordinator, one Secretary and one driver, the WHO Representative in Ghana now has an eight-member Country Support Team whose backgrounds cover a wide range of health related disciplines. A Technical Officer is attached to the National AIDS Control Programme; an Associate Professional Officer collaborates with the MOH in the Immunization Programme together with a Logistics and Cold Chain Officer.

The administration and support staff total eleven.

WHO ACTIVITIES IN GHANA

The WHO, as an agency of the U.N., was established in Ghana at independence in 1957.

Its activities have been in the provision of technical and financial assistance to the health sector through a programme of collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

WHO is proud to be associated with such projects as the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Maternal and Child Health activities, Prevention and Control of diseases such as tuberculosis, yaws, leprosy, malaria, AIDS and guinea worm.

Current priority areas include:

— Eradication of dracunculiasis (guinea worm).

— Eradication of leprosy.

— Elimination of neo-natal tetanus.

— 90 percent reduction in the prevalence of measles.

— Health promotion activities at district and subdistrict levels.

— Provision of needed and relevant training of human resources, through its fellowship programme.

— Support in research Programmes in collaboration with the Health Research Unit,

Dr. B.C. Dando, WHO Rep. in Ghana

the Navrongo and

Kintampo Health Research Centres, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) and

the Centre for Research into Plant Medicine at Mampong-Akwapim.

WHO supports the Ghana Standards Board which serves as one of its collaborating centres.

Future perspectives of the Organization are in the direction of:

— Primary Health Care activities as a strategy to attaining the goal of HFA 2000.

— The elimination of poliomyelitis, leprosy and guinea worm.

— The reduction of HIV/AIDS cases through education and information techniques.

Funds approved for WHO programmes:
1994 - 1995 — US$ 1.781.500/ Regular Budget, US$600.000/ Other sources.
1996 - 1997 — US$ 1.730.000/ Regular Budget, US$600,000/ Other sources.

Training of Traditional Birth attendants in Ghana

World Health Organisation
(WHO)
20 Water Street, North Ridge,
P.O. Box M. 142, Accra
Tel: 225276
Fax: (233-21) 228397

LIVING HIGH AND FREE

A. M. Rosenthal

France, zero. Britain, zero. Zeros for other Western Allies whose victory in World War II led to the founding of the United Nations — Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium.

On this list, a U.N. document, zeroes are medals. They mean the countries have paid up all their dues to the U.N.'s annual budget, and owe nothing. The former Axis partners get those honorable zeros too — Italy, Japan, Germany.

Russia gets the zero-medal for all past dues. The check from Moscow for part of this year's dues has not yet arrived. But given that things are really complicated there, Russia has little to be ashamed of. Its delegates can walk in, cast votes and make speeches without flushing.

MEDALS

But on the U.N.'s 50th anniversary, the U.S. gets no zeros, no medals. How embarrassed its delegates must be when they lecture the U.N. on reform. A good case could be made for canceling U.S. voting privileges in the General Assembly, or putting Washington on probation, for habitual financial deadbeating. The U.S. is $212 million in arrears for the annual budget for past years, and $315 million for this year. Turn to contributions to the peacekeeping budget, for missions carried out by the U.N. at the orders of member nations, including the U.S. More than $1 billion is due from the U.S.

The U.N. puts the total American arrears for budget and peacekeeping at $1.6 billion. U.S. accounting knocks off $300 million for deductions it decided on without U.N. agreement. Either way, the U.S. owes about 43 percent of the total U.N. deficit.

The U.N. has no reserves or capital. Even as the Presidents and Prime Ministers speechify, it is overdrawn and has peace-keeping debts of $1 billion. It is behind that much in the pay and equipment costs of the troops on mission duty.

MISSION

One more Bosnia, Haiti or Cambodia and the U.N. will pay for carrying out the new mission by — by what? Nobody has any great ideas, or even mediocre ones.

Taking accomplishments and failures, the U.N. has been a good political investment. Most Americans believe so. Financially the U.S. budget allotment is a free lunch. From U.N. salaries spent and purchases made in the U.S., America gets back far more than its annual dues.

But in Congress, under Democratic as well as Republican leadership, members adore punching the U.N. around. Some of the actions taken at the U.N. are eminently denounceable — like the years of anti-Semitsm parading as anti-Zionism, or deliberately mislabeling peace-making as peace-keeping, as in Bosnia.

But the perennial Congressional U.N. bashers withhold dues. They talk as if the U.N. were something separate, out there, acting on the orders of international bureaucrats.

Truth is, the U.N. acts on the orders of the member nations. Each mission was ordered by the members, the U.S. usually in the lead — not by the Secretary General or his staff. If the U.S. did not want the U.N. operation in Bosnia, or Cambodia, or anywhere, it could have killed any one by veto in the Security Council.

To refuse the contributions due is like running up a bill for clothes, wearing them for years and then refusing to pay the tailor because they need cleaning.

The other day I traveled to the first headquarters of the U.N. It is in the Bronx, then as now the culinary and educational capital of America.

While it was looking for a permanent home 50 years ago, the U.N. found haven at the uptown campus of Hunter College, then for women only. It is part of the City University of New York, the city's higher education system, a whole universe of learning that turned out Gen. Colin Powell and me.

COUNCIL

The women were shifted to Hunter's downtown campus and the gym was converted into the Security Council chamber. The Times bureau was in the hair-drying room.

The school is now Lehaman College, also part of CUNY. I attended a roundtable between Secretary General Boutros Boutros - Ghali and CUNY students. Students and Secretary general were a fine match — informed, sophisticated, hopeful.

I thought about how the U.N. has changed — after all, 50 years. But one thing I never dreamt would happen — that the U.S. would become the U.N.'s biggest, most shameful deadbeat. And it will remain so unless American protest soiling of the country's honor, and theirs.

CULLED FROM NEW YORK TIMES 3/10/95.

SECRETARY - GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR UNITED NATIONS DAY — 24 OCTOBER 1995

"Today the peoples of the United Nations mark the fiftieth anniversary of the only truly universal organization in humanity's history.

"Fifty years is a tiny drop in the stream of the centuries. But no other institution in history has gathered together so many political communities. No other has survived so many storms. No other has built such a promising foundation for the future as has the United Nations.

"In the United Nations was born the concept of peace-keeping, a permanent contribution to the age-old search for peaceful solutions. In the United Nations was heard, proudly and clearly, the voices of the poorest of the poor. Here the difficult issues of development have received the most productive attention.

In the United Nations the new nations of the world came to take their rightful place as member states. Here sovereignty and statehood come together as the foundation-stones of an emerging international community.

UN Secretary General, Dr. Boutros Boutros - Ghali

"The peoples of the United Nations stand at a turning point in world affairs. On this anniversary we commemorate — and assess elastically — a half-century of United Nations' existence. And on this day we are duty-bound to deliberate on the course to be taken by the world organization in its second half-century.

"Peace is an immediate concern. But the cause of development is essential to enduring success. It calls us to look beyond peace to recognize and take action in the fields of economy, the environment, social justice and democratization.

"Let us learn from our setbacks. More importantly, let us build upon our successes, for there have been many: successes in situations too complex or undramatic to gain wide attention: successes in the slow and diligent effort to achieve progress visible only over the long-term; and successes in major operations for peace, development and democracy which have not been given the recognition they merit.

"We are gaining momentum. The United Nations provides the focus for a common global effort. Here is the world organization created to serve all peoples. Here is the machinery we can transform into a responsive instrument essential to the realization of humanity's finest hopes."

UNIDO IN GHANA

Contd from Page 14

gramme including Investment Forum for Ghana.

* Pre-investment Study for the Fisheries Industry.
* Assistance to the Packaging Industry
* TSS-1 Study on Industrial Technology

Funds provided for the above projects amounts to almost seven million dollars (US$7,000,000)

Under UNIDO training programmes, fellowships are awarded to Ghanaians every year to be trained in various fields of industry. In 1993 and 1994, thirty-three participants from Ghana benefitted from these programmes.

Mr. David Tommy, UNIDO Rep. in Ghana

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
UNDP Building - Ring Road East
P. O. Box 1423, Accra
Tel: 773890 - 6; 773898 Fax: (233-21) 773899

Special Commemorative Meeting of the Fiftieth General Assembly

THE UNITED NATIONS officially came into existence on 24 October 1945 with the entry into force of its Charter. On that day, an organisation dedicated to the goals of peace, development and social progress began its work, and a world community that had been torn apart by war embarked on a new effort at global cooperation.

HALF A CENTURY LATER, in recognition of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, a Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly was held from 22 to 24 October 1995. The culminating event in a year-long series of anniversary activities, the Special Commemorative Meeting was attended by more than 150 Heads of State or Government. On Tuesday, 24 October, these world leaders, gathered in the General Assembly Hall in an unprecedented display of global solidarity, to consider the adoption of a Declaration reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Organisation's Charter.

WITH THE UNITED NATIONS so actively engaged across a vast agenda, from development and peace-keeping to human rights and international law, the on-going fiftieth session of the General Assembly marks another turning point in world history. Delegates reflected on the achievements and lessons of the past — and charting a course for the next fifty years and beyond.

PRESIDENT OF THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral is a Professor of Law at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, where he has taught since 1970.

He was born on 21 July 1941, in Povoa de Varzim, a small town in the north of Portugal. In 1963 he finished law school with a degree from the University of Lisbon. While at law school he was elected President of the General Assembly of the Student Association. After obtaining his law degree he further specialized in political and economic sciences. In 1967 he obtained a Ph.D. in Public Law, which included International Law. He was elected President of the Scientific Committee of the Law Faculty for five different years.

Professor Freitas do Amaral has been involved in politics for many years. Immediately after the Portuguese Revolution on 25 April 1974, he was appointed a member of the Council of State, an office he held from May 1974 to March 1975. He was a Member of Parliament (constituency of Lisbon) from 1975 to 1983 and again from 1992 to 1993.

Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral is the founder of one of the four main political parties which marked the establishment of democracy in Portugal. In 1974 he founded the Portuguese Christian Democratic Party and was its President until December 1982. He held this office again from 1988 to 1991.

From 1982 to 1983 Professor Freitas do Amaral was the President of the European Union of Christian Democrats.

Professor Freitas do Amaral has held many offices in the Portuguese Government. He was Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1980 to 1981. Between December 1980 and January 1981 he was Interim Prime Minister. From 1981 to 1983 he was Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

Professor Freitas do Amaral was a Presidential candidate in 1986. He lost the election to the current President of the Republic, Dr. Mario Soares, after receiving 48.8 per cent of the national vote.

Professor Freitas do Amaral has written numerous books and articles on public law, political science, and the history of political thought.

Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral is married and has four children.

Prof. Diogo Freitas do Amaral, President of the Fiftieth Session of the General Assembly

THE BLUE BOOKS SERIES

The United Nations Blue Book Series is designed to provide primary research and reference tools to academics, policy makers, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the United Nations from peace-keeping and conflict resolution to development and human rights.

The series was launched in New York on 15 December 1994 with the release of the first volume - **THE UNITED NATIONS AND APARTHEID, 1948-1994.** It gives a comprehensive account of the historic transformation from the apartheid era to the establishment of a non-racial democratic government. It brings together for the first time over 200 United Nations documents and other materials relating to the decades-long struggle.

Also reproduced are: Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

* Reports of United Nations Secretaries-General
* International legal instruments and
* Statements by President Nelson Mandela and other leading figures including Mr. Oliver Tambo, Chief Albert J. Luthili, etc.

***Volume VI, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN,* 1945-1995** is the latest in the series. It focuses on the United Nations as a catalyst for the global advancement of women. Working to promote gender equality and non-discrimination as laid down by the Organisation's Charter. The volume reproduces more than 100 UN documents on women's rights, violence against women, equal access to education, employment and health care.

Each volume in the series carries an introduction by the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a detailed chronology of events and comprehensive collection of UN documents and other materials relating to a particular volume.

Others include:-

The United Nations and Cambodia, 1991-1994

The United Nations and El Salvador, 1990-1995

The United Nations and Mozambique, 1992-1995

The United Nations and Human Rights 1945-1995

The United Nations and Nuclear Non Proliferation

The Blue Books

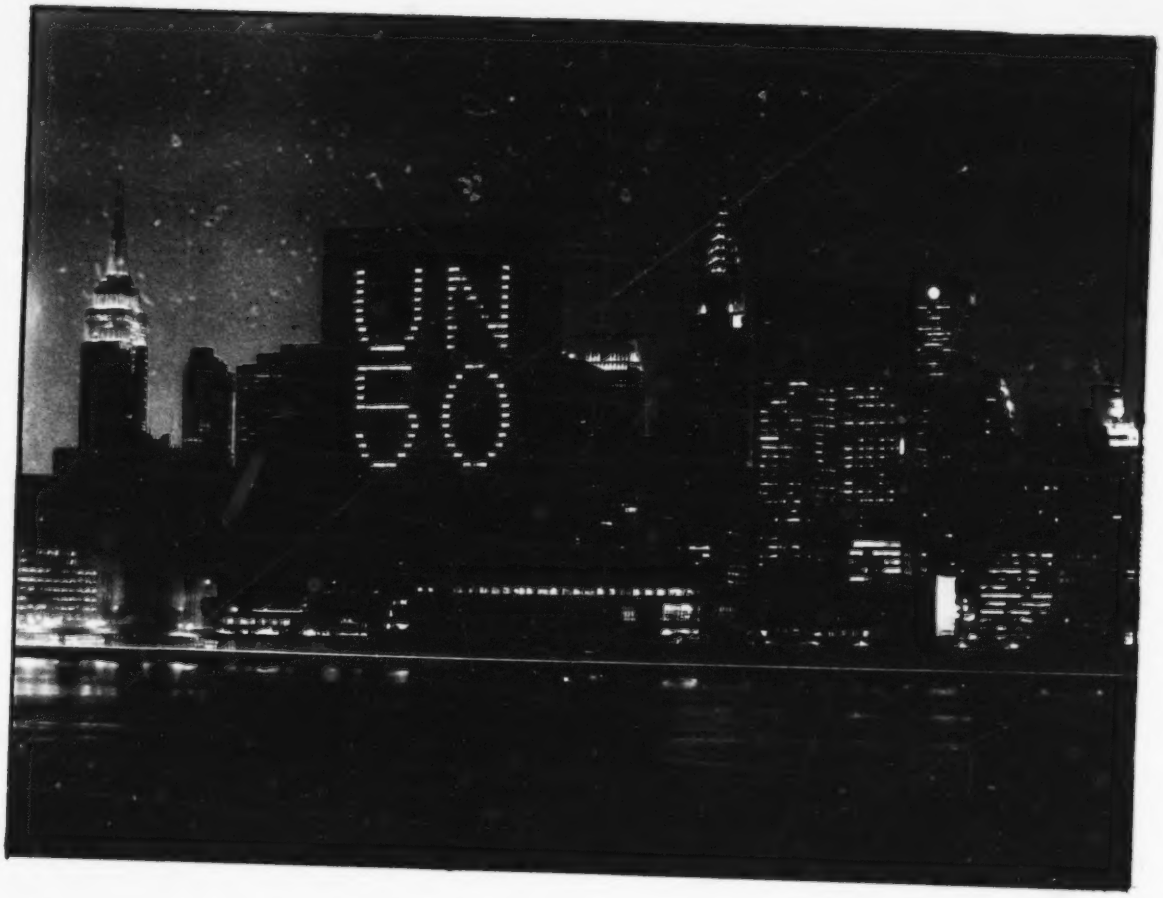
These books are **SALES ITEMS**.

For details on the "Blue Books" and other UN publications, please contact:

United Nations Information Centre for Ghana and Sierra Leone
Post Office Box 2339, Accra
Tel :665511/666851-4
Fax: 233-21-665578
Location: FAO Building, Junction off Liberia and Gamel Abdul Nasser Roads

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS-

United For A Better WORLD



1945-1995